

Supplementary 2. Comparative passive bending capacity of cetacean flippers in *Megaptera novaeangliae* and *Globicephala melas*.



Qualitative assessment of the passive bending capacity of a left flipper of *Megaptera novaeangliae*, illustrating the range of motion toward the dorsal (top) and ventral (bottom) sides.



Qualitative assessment of the passive bending capacity of a left flipper of *Globicephala melas*, illustrating the range of motion toward the dorsal (left) and ventral (right) sides.

Both *Megaptera novaeangliae* and *Globicephala melas* exhibit slightly reduced flexibility toward the ventral aspect of the flipper. However, *G. melas* displays a higher overall bending capacity, associated with an internal skeletal organisation composed of numerous, relatively short phalanges, in contrast to the fewer and more elongated phalanges observed in *M. novaeangliae*.